

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of April 23, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 remain pending.

The disclosure has been objected to for several minor informalities. By the above amendment, applicants have amended the specification to address the informalities identified in the action as well as to address others which were discovered during review of the specification.

In amended Figure 1, reference numeral 111 was inadvertently excluded from the drawing. By this amendment, reference number 111 was added to identify the memory storage device coupled to the remote computer 109. The size of all fonts in amended Figure 4 has been increased.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 6,460,058 to Koppolu et al. ("Koppolu") in view of U.S. patent no. 6,271,840 to Finesth et al. ("Finesth"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants note that Koppolu qualifies as prior art to the instant application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and is assigned to Microsoft Corporation, the assignee of the instant application. Importantly, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) subject matter which qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) "shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment" to the same entity. The instant application was subject to an obligation of assignment to Microsoft Corporation at the time the invention was made. Therefore, Koppolu may not be used to reject the claims of the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

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Amendment dated July 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2003

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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